

NOGALES TRANSIT FEASIBILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

Transit Advisory Committee Meeting #1

April 10, 2006, 1:00 PM

Nogales City Hall

Meeting Notes

1. Attendance

Name	Affiliation	Telephone Number	E-mail Address
Armando R. Lopez	Nogales City Council	(520) 287-6312	alopez@cityofnogales.net
Manuel Tapia, Jr.	City of Nogales	(520) 285-5753	mtapia@cityofnogales.net
Larry Klose	City of Nogales	(520) 285-5625	lklose@cityofnogales.net
Matt Carpenter	ADOT	(602) 712-6790	mcarpenter@azdot.gov
Danny Granillo	ADOT	(520) 620-5422	dgranillo@azdot.gov
Eugene Weeks	SEAGO	(520) 432-5301, ext. 206	eweeks@seago.org
David Fields	Nelson\Nygaard	(212) 242-2490	dfields@nelsonnygaard.com
Adelina Cañez	Graduate Student	(510) 919-7395	adelinacanez@comcast.net

2. Introductions

Matt Carpenter opened the meeting with thanks to everyone for the interest in the Nogales Transit Feasibility Study ("Study"). Attendees then introduced themselves.

3. Project Description and Objectives

David Fields outlined the purpose of the study as the answer to four questions:

- Does an officially sponsored and funded transit system meet the needs of Nogales?
- Where would the system operate?
- What would the service entail (span, frequency, types of vehicles)?
- What is required to implement the service?

DF also asked the members of the TAC to begin thinking about the City's objectives, and how a transit service could meet those objectives.

4. Concurrence on Scope of Work, Budget, and Timetable¹

MC reported that the scope of work, budget, and timetable had been presented to and accepted by the Nogales City Council. The only item requested to be added to the scope is a review of Title VI requirements, to ensure any new system would address Federal requirements. DF acknowledged this issue would be included as part of the study.

Action Item:

- N\N and ADOT to amend scope of work to include review of Title VI requirements.

¹ Additional changes to scope and schedule were discussed and agreed upon later in the meeting (see "Public Participation").

5. Definition of Study Area

Members of the TAC requested that the Study Area be extended beyond the City's current northern border and include the area proposed to be annexed (north to Ruby Road). Service to the new hospital will be especially important. DF acknowledged this extension of the study area, with the caveat that quantitative data for that area may be less readily available, but the study would use what is available.

Action Items:

- N\N and ADOT to amend study area to include area proposed to be annexed (north to Ruby Road).

6. Discussion of Key Transportation Issues

The TAC engaged in a detailed discussion of the key transportation issues facing Nogales. To facilitate this discussion, DF distributed a population density map of Nogales (see attachments). The main points of the discussion included:

- Multiple shuttles currently operate between the border and Mariposa Road, connecting employees and day shoppers from Mexico to Wal-Mart and other stores.
- Very little of the existing service is used by local residents.
- Existing service is unreliable (not on a set schedule, prices vary by demand, and no definitive information available to the public).
- Existing service is difficult to regulate.
- The City installed bus stops to improve the safety of existing transit services, however the operators do not restrict themselves to these locations. N\N should investigate ordinances throughout the State which limit use of public facilities by private entities. Gene Weeks commented that Grand Avenue is a state-owned roadway and therefore it is definitely illegal for private transit services to be stopping.

7. Community Priorities/Study Goals and Objectives

- a. Transit service must serve local residents, but should capitalize on the existing market which makes it profitable for services today.
- b. New transit service should accommodate the manufacturing in the western and northern portions of the City. Routes that service these areas may be eligible for JARC funding.
- c. New transit service should reach the new hospital in the proposed annex area.
- d. The Study should not include intercity transit service, which may be the focus of a later ADOT study.
- e. Existing transit service providers will be eligible for winning service contracts, through an open and regulated bidding process.
- f. Local neighborhood service should be considered, but may be limited by width neighborhood roadways and topography of the areas off of the major thoroughfares.

- g. Transfer facilities should be considered at the Mix Street lot (at Terrace Avenue) and at Mariposa Avenue. The Mix Street facility should include a building, bathrooms, and shelter.
- h. An operations/maintenance facility could be located at the City's DPW headquarters.
- i. Transit service should operate:
 - seven days per week
 - from 7AM to 9PM on weekdays and later on weekends (though an earlier service for commuters from Mexico should be considered)
 - Every 15 minutes during weekdays (Jan-Nov) and every 5-7 minutes weekdays in December.
 - Every 5-10 minutes weekends all year long.
- j. Fare structure should provide discounts to seniors, students, and for purchasing multiple ticket packages.
- k. In addition to providing the service, an implementation plan with marketing to sell the service will also be needed.

8. Public Participation

TAC members participated in a detailed discussion about public participation efforts. The following individuals and/or organizations were recommended to be included either in the TAC or as stakeholders to be interviewed:

- Santa Cruz County (Supervisor, Director of Public Works, and Council on Aging)
- Neighborhood associations (Monte Carlo, Nogales West, and Nogalitos)
- Nogales Chamber of Commerce
- Nogales School District
- Nogales Public Housing Authority
- Existing shuttle services
- Transit services in Nogales, Mexico
- Service/manufacturing/produce industries
- Senecas Training Center
- Mariposa Clinic
- Carondelet Hospitals
- CEBUS health services
- Port Authority
- Real estate developers

The TAC agreed that MC, DF, and Manny Tapia would finalize TAC and Stakeholder lists.

The following schedule of meetings was preliminarily established:

- Tuesday, May 9th: Evening public meeting at City Hall
- Wednesday, May 10th: Morning stakeholder interviews
- Tuesday, June 6th: Mid-morning public meeting at Senior Center
- Wednesday, June 7th: Morning stakeholder interviews
- Tuesday, July 11th: Evening public meeting at a local school

- Wednesday, July 12th: Morning stakeholder interviews and evening presentation to City Council at worksession

The TAC acknowledged that this schedule was a change to the original scope.

Action Items:

- N\N, ADOT, and City to finalize final TAC and Stakeholder lists.
- N\N and ADOT to amend scope of work to meet proposed public participation schedule.
- N\N to draft a press release announcing the public meetings. Upon approval of text, Monica Hernandez will translate the notice, then ADOT and/or the City will release it to appropriate media.

9. Request for Data

DF reported that N\N had initiated Task 1-A (review of existing documents) and had gathered most of the relevant reports. MT confirmed he could provide any missing reports, and data on proposed developments.

Action Item:

- DF and MT to discuss proposed developments.

10. Conclusion

DF thanked everyone for attending the TAC meeting and promised to bring material to the next TAC meeting from the APA's Annual Conference in San Antonio (session on "Planning Across International Boundaries."

11. Action Items

Number	Item	Responsibility
1.	Amend scope of work to include review of Title VI requirements.	D. Fields and M. Carpenter
2.	Amend study area to include area proposed to be annexed (north to Ruby Road).	D. Fields and M. Carpenter
3.	Finalize final TAC and Stakeholder lists.	D. Fields, M. Carpenter, and M. Tapia
4.	Amend scope of work to meet proposed public participation schedule.	D. Fields and M. Carpenter
5.	Draft, translate, and distribute a press release announcing the public meetings.	D. Fields, M. Hernandez, then M. Carpenter and M. Tapia
6.	Discuss proposed developments.	D. Fields and M. Tapia

Attachments

- Meeting Agenda
- Population density map (.pdf format)

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Meeting #1

April 10, 2006

1:00 PM

Nogales City Hall
Conference Room

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Project description and objectives
3. Concurrence on scope of work, budget, and timetable
4. Definition of Study Area
5. Discussion of key transportation issues
 - a. Existing services
 - b. Key markets
 - c. Significant trip generators
 - d. Gut reactions
6. Community priorities/Study goals and objectives
7. Public Participation
 - a. Recommendations for additional TAC members
 - b. Recommendations for Stakeholders
 - c. Public workshops
8. Request for data